

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

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Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park News Release

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More Hawaii Firefighters California Bound



NPS Photo: Hawai'i Volcanoes' resource manager Keola Medeiros (pictured left) will serve as a crew boss trainee for the Hawai'i firefighters. A crew boss looks out for the needs and safety of the firefighters, recognizes and utilizes their talents and skills, maintains harmony and cohesion among the ranks, and remains calm and confident in a crisis. Medeiros brings years of experience battling wildland fires, many ignited by lava-- a molten and mobile ignition source.

On Friday, July 18, 2008, a crew of twenty firefighters from four national parks in Hawai'i will rendezvous at the Honolulu International Airport enroute to join countless others battling California's wildfires. The men and women from Hawai'i Volcanoes, Pu'ukohola Heiau, Haleakala, and the USS *Arizona* Memorial are headed for Sacramento where they will receive their fire orders, typically a minimum 21-day firefighting assignment.

They follow a crew of 16 firefighters from Samoa who departed for California on July 2. That crew, made up of villagers from Tutuila and Manu'a islands, is working with 2,300 other local, national, and international firefighters to contain the Basin Complex Wildland Fire. Located five miles southeast of Big Sur, California in the Los Padres National Forest, the Basin Fire was ignited on June 21 by a dry lightning strike and has burned more than 122,000 acres with an estimated cost to date of nearly \$50 million. Battling the Basin Complex blaze are 46 crews, 178 engines, 19 helicopters, 25 bulldozers and six air tankers. The fire has destroyed 27 residences, 34 other structures, and threatens more than 1400 structures.

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